



SPEAKING



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Introduction & Band Descriptors

The IELTS Speaking test takes the form of a one-to-one interview. There are three parts to the Speaking test. These allow you to demonstrate your spoken English skills through a number of tasks. The tasks are designed so that you can use a range of language on a variety of topics. The whole interview takes between 11 and 14 minutes. Speaking section is the same for both Academic and General students.

The Listening, Reading, and Writing sections are held on the same day; however, Speaking takes place either a week before or after. There is a possibility that Speaking can be taken even on the same day when Listening, Reading, and Writing are taken but in a different time slot.

Here is an overview of the Speaking test format showing the three parts and the approximate timing of each.

Part 1 Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes) - You will have the chance to speak on familiar topics. The examiner will ask you a number of straightforward questions about yourself and about familiar topics, and you should find these easy to answer. This is an opportunity to overcome any nerves and demonstrate your basic fluency.

Part 2 Individual long turn (3-4 minutes) - You will be asked to talk for 1 or 2 minutes on a topic chosen by the examiner. You will have a minute to prepare and then you will have to speak on the topic without stopping. The topic will be based on your personal experiences and feelings, so your talk should be lively and interesting.

Part 3 Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes) - You will be asked more abstract questions, broadly linked to the topic introduced in Part 2, and you will be encouraged to discuss these more fully. This is where you can demonstrate control of language, your ability to express abstract ideas, and to support your opinions appropriately. You should aim to give longer replies than you did to the Part 1 questions.

Note: IELTS examiners are specially trained to rate your speaking test on the scale of 1-9 bands. They are encouraging since they know that you may be nervous but they can mark on what they hear from you. The Examiner will assess you on the basis of 4 parameters : -

1. Fluency and coherence
2. Grammar and accuracy
3. Vocabulary
4. Pronunciation

Test Day advice

1. Carry your Passport to the examination center.
2. Carry the **COLOUR PRINT OF YOUR MAIL** on the speaking test day.
3. Reach the exam center a few minutes early.

Test Day advice - During Covid

1. Mask is mandatory
2. Sanitizer shall be provided.
3. You are not allowed to carry any belongings inside the test room.
4. No phones allowed
5. In certain test centres the test may be conducted via video conference. However, the test structure and process remains the same.
6. Do not panic, in case of any test day changes. Connect with your examination and sort out the situation.

General Tips for Speaking Test

1. The quality of your answer, expressions and body language are all important.
2. Be relaxed and try to give answers that are relevant and as precise as possible.
3. One liner and one word answers are NOT what the examiners are looking for.

4. Try to give complete answers.
5. Be positive and courteous. Negative words like crazy, stupid, terrible should be avoided.
6. Dress yourself apt and comfortable.
7. Carry a pleasant smile. Greet courteously. Thank the examiner for the time and support.
8. Remember the examiner is there to support you. He/she is not a barrier but a moderator in your exam and will get the best out of you.
9. The result of the speaking module will come on the 13th day for the Paper-based test, however, in 5-7 business days for the Computer-delivered test.

Performance Descriptors

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SPEAKING: Band Descriptors

Band	Fluency & coherence	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy	Pronunciation
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self-correction; • any hesitation is content-related rather than to find words or grammar • speaks coherently with fully appropriate cohesive features • develops topics fully and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses vocabulary with full flexibility and precision in all topics • uses idiomatic language naturally and accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a full range of structures naturally and appropriately • produces consistently accurate structures apart from 'slips' characteristic of native speaker speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a full range of pronunciation features with precision and subtlety • sustains flexible use of features throughout • is effortless to understand
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self-correction; hesitation is usually content-related and only rarely to search for language • develops topics coherently and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide vocabulary resource readily and flexibly to convey precise meaning • uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully, with occasional inaccuracies • uses paraphrase effectively as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide range of structures flexibly • produces a majority of error-free sentences with only very occasional inappropriacies or basic/non-systematic errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide range of pronunciation features • sustains flexible use of features, with only occasional lapses • is easy to understand throughout; L1 accent has minimal effect on intelligibility
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaks at length without noticeable effort or loss of coherence • may demonstrate language-related hesitation at times, or some repetition and/or self-correction • uses a range of connectives and discourse markers with some flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses vocabulary resource flexibly to discuss a variety of topics • uses some less common and idiomatic vocabulary and shows some awareness of style and collocation, with some inappropriate choices • uses paraphrase effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a range of complex structures with some flexibility • frequently produces error-free sentences, though some grammatical mistakes persist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows all the positive features of Band 6 and some, but not all of the positive features of Band 8
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is willing to speak at length, though may lose coherence at times due to occasional repetition, self-correction or hesitation • uses a range of connectives and discourse markers but not always appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length and make meaning clear in spite of inappropriacies • generally paraphrases successfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a mix of simple and complex structures, but with limited flexibility • may make frequent mistakes with complex structures though these rarely cause comprehension problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a range of pronunciation features with mixed control • shows some effective use of features but this is not sustained • can generally be understood throughout, though mispronunciation of individual words or sounds reduces clarity at times

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SPEAKING: Band Descriptors

Band	Fluency & coherence	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy	Pronunciation
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually maintains flow of speech but uses repetition, self correction and/or slow speech to keep going may over-use certain connectives and discourse markers produces simple speech fluently, but more complex communication causes fluency problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> manages to talk about familiar and unfamiliar topics but uses vocabulary with limited flexibility attempts to use paraphrase but with mixed success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produces basic sentence forms with reasonable accuracy uses a limited range of more complex structures, but these usually contain errors and may cause some comprehension problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows all the positive features of Band 4 and some, but not all of the positive features of Band 6
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot respond without noticeable pauses and may speak slowly, with frequent repetition and self-correction links basic sentences but with repetitious use of simple connectives and some breakdowns in coherence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is able to talk about familiar topics but can only convey basic meaning on unfamiliar topics and makes frequent errors in word choice rarely attempts paraphrase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produces basic sentence forms and some correct simple sentences but subordinate structures are rare errors are frequent and may lead to misunderstanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a limited range of pronunciation features attempts to control features but lapses are frequent mispronunciations are frequent and cause some difficulty for the listener
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speaks with long pauses has limited ability to link simple sentences gives only simple responses and is frequently unable to convey basic message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses simple vocabulary to convey personal information has insufficient vocabulary for less familiar topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempts basic sentence forms but with limited success, or relies on apparently memorised utterances makes numerous errors except in memorised expressions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows some of the features of Band 2 and some, but not all of the positive features of Band 4
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speaks with long pauses has limited ability to link simple sentences gives only simple responses and is frequently unable to convey basic message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses simple vocabulary to convey personal information has insufficient vocabulary for less familiar topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempts basic sentence forms but with limited success, or relies on apparently memorised utterances makes numerous errors except in memorised expressions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows some of the features of Band 2 and some, but not all of the positive features of Band 4
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pauses lengthily before most words little communication possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only produces isolated words or memorised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot produce basic sentence forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speech is often unintelligible

Assessment Parameters

1. The speaking test is scored on the basis of four distinct areas of abilities
2. Fluency and coherence
3. Lexical resource
4. Grammatical range and Accuracy
5. Pronunciation

Points To Remember

Fluency - Able to speak without noticeable efforts

Connectors - Using a variety of connectors

Tone - Your language is expressive with proper stress

Volume and Clarity - You are audible and clear

Pronunciation - Words are correctly spoken

Pace - Neither too fast nor too slow.

Vocabulary - Include, idioms, phrasal verbs, collocations

Attempt this quiz for a better understanding.

Answer using Yes or No

1. If you don't know anything about the topic, ask the examiner to give you another cue card.
2. You must write answers to each question on the cue card during your 1 minute preparation.
3. In Part 2, you shouldn't look at your notes while you are giving your talk.
4. You will get a low score if your talk is boring.
5. You should only add information to your talk relating to the prompts on your card.
6. The examiner will interrupt you if you go off topic.
7. If you don't speak for 2 minutes, you won't get a high score.
8. The examiner is not interested in your grammar in part 2, only in your fluency.
9. Use plenty of idioms to get a higher score.
10. You should expand your talk by adding descriptions, details and stories.

Answers :-

1. NO, you can't change the cue card
2. YES, cover all the prompts at least once

3. NO, you can look
4. NO, Speaking is assessed on 4 parameters
5. No, you can add more information
6. No
7. Yes ,it is important to speak for about 2 minutes to get a good band
8. No
9. Yes
10. Yes

Part 1

Introduction & Interview

In this part the examiner and the candidate introduce themselves. Examiner then asks general questions related to the candidate's family/home, work/study, leisure activities, and a wide range of such familiar topics.

1. In this part the examiner will introduce the topic first so that you can get an idea about the questions that are going to be asked and you can develop vocabulary and content related to that.
2. In the IELTS speaking part 1, you will be asked 11 – 12 questions.
3. This is an interview and you can aim to give short answers with 2 or 3 sentences.
4. This part lasts for 4-5 minutes.

Strategy:

Think quickly about the vocabulary words and ideas related to the topic.

Do's and Don'ts for Part 1:

1. Be confident and don't hesitate when answering the questions. These questions are about you, so you know them and can give straightforward answers.
2. Understand how the speaking score is given and what to expect in this part, so that you won't have any surprises.

3. Try to use idioms and a wide range of vocabulary appropriately. The vocabulary should be related to the question.
4. Don't try to memorise answers, and then try to answer questions from these memorised answers. By doing so, you are more likely to get a low score.
5. Looking or not at the examiner's eyes will never change your score, so try to focus on your speaking and nothing else.
6. You should not give long answers, try to keep your answers short with the maximum of one or two sentences.
7. Don't use irrelevant vocabulary or idioms for showing the examiner that you know idioms. Idioms and vocabulary should be relevant to the question.

Example:

Examiner – let's talk about flowers

What have you visualized about **flowers**?

Variety of flowers, its vibrant colors, who likes the flowers most- men or women, importance of flowers..so on..

Vocab – nature, mother-earth, plants, birds, insects, positive effects on mood, higher sense of enjoyment, blossom, and so on

Examiner – Thank you! Let's talk about open-air market

What about the **open-air market** ?

Place you visited, when, with whom, how long the market is, what that market sells, what kind of people can visit there

Vocab – vendors, significance, reasonable prices, crowded streets, faring, products that are sold, existing shopping areas, adorn shop, and so on

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It's time to practice, brainstorm ideas and vocabulary words

Record your voice and listen

IN-CLASS CONTENT

Work/study

1. Do you work or are you a student?
2. What work do you do? What subjects are you studying?
3. Why did you choose that job?
4. Why did you choose to study that subject?
5. Do you like your job?
6. Is there anything you dislike about your job?

Hometown

1. What is your town well-known for?
2. How long have you been living there?
3. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?
4. How has your town changed over the last 20 years?

TV Programs

1. What type of TV programs do you like to watch?
2. What benefits can people get from watching foreign TV programs?
3. In your country is it possible for you to watch any TV programs in English?

Singing

1. Do you often sing?
2. When do you like to sing?
3. Is it difficult to sing well?
4. Do you want to be a singer?
5. What kind of music do you like to sing?

How To Frame Your Answers

Using 'combining details' to add information:

Question: Do you live in a villa or a house?

Short answer: I live in a villa.

Long answer: I live in a villa with my two brothers and my mother. We also have amazing neighbors who are like family to us.

Using 'past comparisons' to add information:

Question: Do you play any sport?

Short answer: I play cricket.

Long answer: I used to play basketball, but now I play cricket more because everyone in my locality likes it more.

Using 'adding reasons' to add information:

Question: Do you like your job?

Short answer: Yes, I love my job.

Long answer: Yes, I really love my job because I get to apply my knowledge in a practical way.

More words for adding reasons: in addition, moreover, furthermore, additionally.

Using 'frequency' to add information:

Question: What do you do on weekends?

Short answer: I dance and play cricket.

Long answer: I usually dance and play cricket, but sometimes I go out for dinner with my friends.

More words to talk about frequency: always, generally, often, sometimes, occasionally, seldom, rarely, never.

Using 'giving examples' to add information:

Question: Do you get along with your sisters?

Short answer: No, we are not into the same things.

Long answer: No, we are not into the same things, like when we watch TV, we fight over what to watch.

More words to give examples: for instance, for example, to illustrate, as an illustration, to give a clear example, such as, namely.

Practice Exercises

1. Do you like to have flowers in your home?

Yes, I do. I think they add a lot of color to the place. They add a nice natural touch and as they only last about a week I usually replace them with some other new variety so there's always something different to look at.

OR

Personally I don't really bother about having flowers where I live. I just don't think they are important enough to go and buy them, arrange them, and water them every day.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 3*

2. Where would you go to buy flowers?

I think each place is good depending on what one needs. The supermarket is convenient and the flowers are good, but at the florist one can usually find something a little different or out of the ordinary, and they can usually deliver the blooms as well.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 3*

3. On what occasions would you give someone flowers?

There are events such as funerals when flowers are normally sent or delivered to the family, and maybe other special occasions such as the graduation of my sister or cousin from university, because they both like flowers.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 3*

4. Are flowers important in your culture?

They're a very popular gift to give someone but lots of people prefer to give and

receive other types of gifts too, so I don't think they are really that important in terms of the culture, unlike in some other countries maybe.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 3*

5. How well do you know the people who live next door to you?

I know them quite well because we've lived beside each other for a couple of years now. The people who live to the right of me, well, it's a family with young kids, and on the other side there's a young couple, I guess they're in their thirties, but no kids.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 1*

6. How often do you see them? [Why?]

Well, that depends. Sometimes I see them almost every day when I'm at home, but I travel a lot for work so sometimes I'm away for three or four days at a time so I don't see them at all. I suppose I see them more at the weekends than any other time.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 1*

7. What kinds of problems do people sometimes have with their neighbours?

I suppose the most common problems would be noisy neighbours, maybe playing loud music all the time or doing something else that's annoying. Maybe if they have a dog which barks all the time that could cause a problem for the other neighbours, or if they have kids who keep kicking their football into your garden or parking in your parking space for example.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 1*

8. How do you think neighbours can help each other?

I think it depends if they are good neighbours or not, but in general, they could possibly help when you have a problem, for example: if you lock yourself out of your home or if you need someone to be there to accept a package delivered when you're out or even watch your kids for a couple of hours.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 1*

9. Which television channel do you usually watch? [Why?]

I don't really have much time to watch TV, but when I do get some time and opportunity, I like to watch "Discovery" and "AXN Asia". I watch Discovery mainly because it allows me to learn about some of the most amazing and coolest things in the world, and I like watching AXN because it helps me to improve my English by offering subtitles for the contents the channel shows.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 4*

10. Which television channel do you usually watch? [Why?]

I don't exactly enjoy watching advertisements on television simply because I think of them as a waste of time. Besides, I also think that most advertisements have poor contents and try to deceive prospective customers into buying something that they don't need.

Source: Cambridge Book 8, *Test 4*

Part 2

Individual Long Turn

Speaking part 2 is also called “The Talk”, and is a monologue. Cue card topics are familiar topics about which you might have had personal experience, heard from others, watched in movies or read in some books

1. You will be given a topic card or cue card.
2. You will have 1 minute to prepare your talk, and
3. Then you will need to speak for around 2 minutes.
4. This part will last around 3-4 minutes.

The cue card section is considered by students as the scariest part since they need to speak in length on a topic. The doubt that students usually have in their mind is what to do in the 1 minute time of preparation.

In this scenario, preparing a strategy beforehand will be of great help.

Strategy:

1. Read every part of the cue card prompt carefully.
2. Use the 1 minute time wisely to quickly think of ideas on the topic about which you are going to speak. Write down relevant keywords that come to your mind in **the spider diagram** shown below. This is the opportunity where you can think of the content you would like to speak and hence, it's a way you can improve your talk. You would speak better and for long if you utilize the strategy.

Build your story

Method 1

Answer all sub questions with elaboration, reason, details, opinions, comparisons

5 Wives	1 Husband
Who When Where Which Why	How

Build your story

Method 2

1 - Develop story from Past

2 - Bring to Present

3 - Continue to future

When

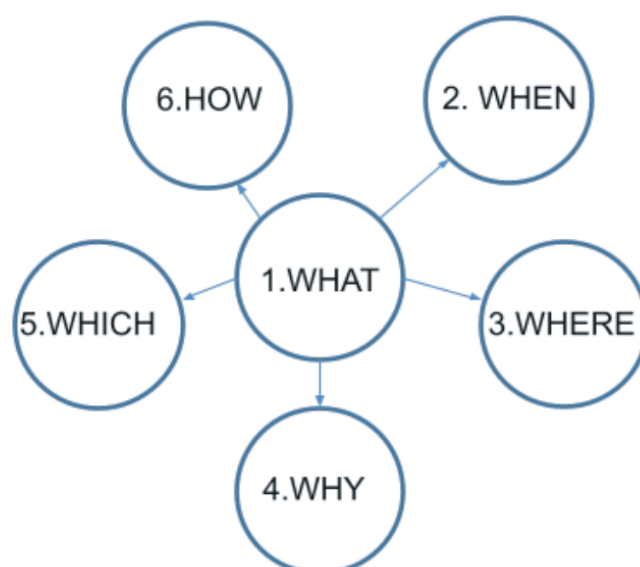
Where

What

Why

How

Utilising 1 minute - Note Making using Spider Diagram



Do's and Don'ts for the 1 Minute Preparation and Speaking

1. Read and understand the topic very well. Sometimes students misunderstand the topic and speak irrelevantly though they speak a lot.
2. Quickly think of the topic about which you have to speak that you can elaborate further at the time you speak.
3. Always look for ideas on the topic from your familiarity itself which would make you feel easy and comfortable to find content for speaking.
4. Note down factual information as your keywords, being more specific as per the focus question such as for what, when and where questions, you can write “party”, “last month” and “hotel” respectively.
5. Do not write full sentences to waste time. Write short words or phrases instead. You may write down some vocabulary that you can use while speaking.
6. Write the keywords clearly that can get imprinted in your mind well. But do not write them very slowly and try covering basic points of all questions in the cue 1. card.
7. Write keywords in the circles/ovals in the spider diagram. While you speak, start from the center circle and move in either clockwise/anti-clockwise direction, covering all points mentioned in the cue card.
8. Start imagining the situation or creating a picture in your mind to get better ideas.
9. Examiner may be looking at your sheet at the time you are writing the keywords. Do not feel nervous or conscious, just focus on the cue card.
10. Refer to the keywords written when you are speaking.

Example:

Examiner gives you the following cue card along with a pen and paper:

Describe a party you had attended and enjoyed

- What party it was
- Where it was held and who went to the party
- What you did in the party

Describe why you enjoyed that party a lot

WHAT - Birthday party, youngest brother

WHEN - last year

WHERE - Grand Hotel, New Delhi,

WHICH/ WHO - Family members, close relatives, friends, colleagues

WHY - Fun, relief from stress, amazing, memorable

HOW - Dancing, playing, singing, gossiping, eating delicious dishes

After 1 minute is over, you should speak on the topic using these keywords as follows:

I have attended many parties in my life but the one I would like to talk about is the party that was held last year. It was the birthday party of my youngest brother and was held at the Grand Hotel, New Delhi. It was a grand party where we had invited our family members and some other close relatives. Apart from that, some friends of my brother as well as colleagues of my father were also invited.

The party started when everyone gathered in the main hall. People were greeting each other and they were served with some cold drinks. Then around 11 am, everyone grouped together around the cake stand and my youngest

brother cut the cake being at the centre of the group. All clapped and congratulated him by giving him best wishes for his future life ahead. They presented some wonderful gifts to my brother. Everyone enjoyed eating snacks with tea while gossiping with each other.

In the afternoon, lunch was organized and I could see a great variety of dishes including fast foods such as pizza, burger and traditional food such as rice and curry. Other than this, some mouth-watering sweets and ice-creams were also available which I loved the most. After lunch, some exciting games were organized especially for kids but their parents also enjoyed those activities a lot.

In the end, Bollywood songs were being played and people were dancing on the beats though some were just singing together and watching others dancing on the floor. It was great fun and I enjoyed it a lot because after a very long time I had attended that party which provided me great relief from my hectic schedule and stressful life. On the whole, it was an amazing party which made me feel extremely happy and hence, it was one of the memorable parties I had attended in my life.

Practice 1:

Describe a historical place/site you have been to.

You should say:

- what place/site it is
- what people can see there
- what you enjoyed there the most

and explain how you felt about being there

Model Answer:

Malacca city in Malaysia is quite a unique place which I have been lucky enough to visit a couple of years ago, specifically, Saint Paul's Hill in Malacca is a great historic place to be. This site dates back to the time when the Portuguese conquered the city in 1511, and I would like to talk about this mesmerising place for this topic.

Saint Paul's Hill is in the heart of Malacca city and a popular tourist destination. Malacca has so many historical and unique tourist attractions and sites which I enjoyed to the fullest, but nothing beats Saint Paul's Hills. The Saint Paul's Church is at the top of the hill and it was built by the Portuguese Catholics. These days, only the walls, frames and a glimpse of an astounding architectural style remain, but the historical prominence and its glory are still boasting its significance in every way possible.

When the Dutch invaded the city in around 1641, the church was used as a burial place. Later, during the British colony, the Church was used as a powder magazine. A statue of Saint Francis Xavier still stands there who used to preach in the church. I learned about so many historic facts while visiting this place from a tour guide that we hired.

St. Paul's Hill also bears the presence of Stadthuys and the Christian church, which signifies the Dutch era in Malacca. The hill also has a replica of the 'Melaka Sultanate Palace' which gave me immense pleasure when I visited there. Finally, I also noticed an entrance to the Portuguese fortress which I liked the most due to its extraordinary presence and architectural style.

The experience of walking at Saint Paul's Hill on a fine afternoon and witnessing so many interesting historical significance was something I will remember for a long time. I enjoyed every bit of my time when I visited there and I hope to visit it again if time permits me.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe a historical place/site you have been to*

Practice 2:

Describe something you have lost recently.

You should say:

- what you lost
- how you lost it

- how important it was to you

and explain what you did to find the lost item.

Model Answer:

Psychologists say that losing something is more worrisome and depressing than the happiness we feel when we earn or find something of equal price or value. This was something I just read but realised every bit of it when I lost a book that I received as a gift from a dear friend of mine. I will share this story with you.

The book I lost was titled "Complete Collection Of Fyodor Dostoevsky". I was travelling to Portugal after completing my first year at the university a few months ago and met a school friend who moved to Portugal with her family many years ago. I spent some of the best vacation time in my life there, and just before the day I planned to return to my homeland, my friend - Emily, bought me a rare collection of this book. She told me that it was a gift for my upcoming birthday, which was three months later. And not to mention, it was a precious gift and I liked her idea of selecting this book for me.

I was quite amazed by her generous gift idea and thanked her profoundly for such a thoughtful gift item. I kept the book in my handbag and my sole intention to keep it in my handbag was to read it on my return journey. I must have been very careless not to look after it properly, and I believe I dropped it somewhere at the airport. To my wildest horror, when I searched for the book in my bag, I could not find it anywhere. I rummaged through my bag and it was nowhere! It was such a sad moment!

The book was a gift from a dear friend and she spent a considerable amount of money to buy me one of the rarest editions of this book. It was quite an important gift to me and losing it was a depressing experience, to say the least.

I could do virtually nothing to retrieve the lost book as I was not sure where I had dropped it. I might have dropped it inside the taxi that I took to reach the airport, or at one of the coffee shops or somewhere at the airport. So, apart from sending an email to the airport, I had very few options.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe something you have lost recently*

Practice 3:

Describe a time when you made a promise to someone.

You should say:

- when it was
- who you made the promise to
- why you made this promise

and explain how you felt about it.

Model Answer:

They say keep your promises if you make any. And the fear of breaking promises often deters me from ever making it - from when I started understanding its gravity. But there are still times when I did make vows, and to my dismay, to find out later that I hadn't been able to keep them all! Today, for this topic, I'd like to talk about a promise that I made to myself, and that I also broke just a couple of weeks later.

It was 2018 when I'd just finished university studies, and was looking for a job. The shift from comparatively relaxed student life, the pressure to land a job, my financial condition and large debt - all mounted an invisible pressure on my shoulder. Moreover, disrupting sleep patterns and a change in weather affected my mood to a great extent. I found myself in a situation where I was losing my temper pretty quickly, which is contrary to my usual self. In fact, I was known to have a great composure and nerve.

So, one day, after losing temper and getting angry for no apparent reason and shouting to a taxi driver, who I thought was arguing unnecessarily, I realised something had changed in me which I did not expect and like at all. On that very day, I made a promise to myself that I would behave more prudently and

never let my temper take control of me.

I made this promise to myself because I never liked hot-tempered persons who get angry without valid reasons. I always believed such people could do a little better by being a bit wiser and less bitter. So naturally, I didn't want to become one of those people.

When I made the promise, I felt great. It was like re-inventing myself and being able to erase something bad from my life. But it was equally disappointing when I got angry with my little sister a couple of weeks later forgetting my promise. Some say promises are made to break, but it's a good thing that I constantly remind myself that I need to keep my promises, and even if I break it once or twice, there is no reason why I should not try harder.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe a time when you made a promise to someone*

Practice 4:

Describe a country you would like to visit.

You should say:

- which country it is
- what you already know about this country
- when you want to visit this country

and explain why you want to visit this country.

Model Answer:

In my inquisitive mind, I want to visit every single country in the world, but it is not possible as I don't have a limitless flow of money or all the time in the world to fulfil this wish. So, bringing my expectations to a practical level, I have plans to

visit at least 5 to 6 countries in the next couple of years, and Switzerland stands at the top of this wish list.

Switzerland is, undoubtedly, one of the most beautiful countries in the world, and I marvel at the sheer beauty of the wide-green fields and snow-capped mountains that I have seen on TV or in magazines. I have a school friend who lives there with her family and it was her who stirred my interests in this country. I have heard about her skiing on the mountain slopes, exciting experiences in the countryside, and experimenting with different cuisines. Even though those are just stories and experiences, it ignited my imagination on how beautiful the country would be and how much I would enjoy exploring it.

I'll visit Switzerland sometime in the middle of the next year if everything goes according to my plan. I have already shared my ideas with my parents and they would be okay with me travelling there with one of my close friends. So, I will possibly visit this country which is famous for its celestial beauty, delicious chocolates and finest watches, with Elizabeth, who also wants to visit Switzerland with me.

I believe visiting Switzerland would be a once in a lifetime experience for me. It will offer exciting and exhilarating adventures while also materialising my dreams. I've also heard a lot about high-quality Swiss watches and the punctuality of Swiss people, which I would like to witness myself. I would also like to enjoy beautiful landscapes, culture, foods and things in their way while in Switzerland.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe a country you would like to visit*

Practice 5:

Describe a time when the internet helped you solve a problem.

You should say:

- when it was

- what problem you faced
- how the internet helped you solve the problem

and explain how you felt about it.

Model Answer:

Thank you for this interesting cue card topic as I will go ahead and talk about a time when the internet helped me solve a problem.

It was about a couple of years ago when I went to visit my only aunt in a city, of which I had a very limited idea. And it was so because it was only the second time that I visited the city. The first time I visited it was almost 7 or 8 years ago when things looked a bit different in that very crowded and big city. For example, the streets got wider and many new shops and buildings were built.

Besides, some of the businesses and shops moved to new locations as well which I had no idea about. Of course, none of these would create any problem for me unless my aunt had asked me to buy her medicine from a particular pharmacy. Incidentally, she was an asthma patient, and she used an inhaler of a certain foreign brand which only a certain pharmacy in the city used to keep. I knew where the pharmacy was located, or at least so I had thought since I visited the last time when I had come to see my aunt.

But, when I actually went to that location, I found out that the pharmacy had moved to a new location. I asked a few people there, but unfortunately, nobody could tell me about it. Seeing no other options, I decided to get the help of the internet on my smartphone even though I was a bit skeptical about it. But, luckily, as soon as I searched the pharmacy by its name on my phone, it did give me its address and the direction.

Anyway, after finding the location of the pharmacy, I breathed a sigh of relief. After all, I didn't want my aunt to suffer because of my failure to find some pharmacy and buy her medicine. Besides, I felt a bit more confident and bold also in roaming around the city since I had the help of the internet.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe a time when the internet helped you to solve a problem*

Practice 6:

Describe a leisure activity that you do with your family. You should say:

You should say:

- what activity it is
- when you do it with your family
- how much you enjoy it

and explain how this is helpful for you and your family.

Model Answer:

One of the great advantages of having a family with active family members is that they never really run out of ideas to spend and enjoy quality time by getting involved with different kinds of leisurely activities. I am lucky that I have one of those active families who never hesitate to enjoy different recreational activities whenever an opportunity arrives.

One such leisure activity, which my family really enjoys, is fishing, and I have seen my family doing fishing since the days I barely began to understand the world around me. Sometimes, I feel that fishing is in the blood of all of my family members, including me and my elder brothers, since we all happen to like it so much.

In fact, we are so passionate about fishing that we have more than 50 years' old fishing rods in our house which were used by my father to do fishing when he himself was a child. My mother doesn't lag too far behind either in the race of being passionate about her fishing hobby because she doesn't only do fishing by herself but also she takes pictures of herself and the entire family when we are fishing. We love fishing so much that we actually carry all kinds of foods with us when going fishing, in case we have to spend the whole day catching our prey.

Anyway, as I have already mentioned earlier, we all like fishing whenever there is an opportunity, but we prefer to do it over the long weekend when we don't have any urgent matters to take care of.

Well, this particular type of leisure activity is really helpful for me and my family since nothing else brings us together as close as when going fishing. Besides, the fun and joy of catching live fishes and then eating them over dinner time just can't be described in words. Finally, the loving memories we create, by taking the pictures of our entire family when enjoying this activity together, is simply priceless.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe a leisure activity that you do with your family*

Practice 7:

Describe the first time you used a foreign language to communicate.

You should say:

- what the situation was
- where you were then
- who you communicated with

and explain why you used a foreign language to communicate on that occasion.

Model Answer:

I never really underestimated the importance of learning to speak in a different language other than my native language. But, the importance of it increased even more to me when I actually had to use a foreign language in a critical situation.

The critical situation I am talking about involved talking to an immigration

officer at an airport when I visited Spain about a year ago to enjoy a vacation. Up until that point, I never really thought that I would need to use a foreign language other than English at an airport, at least. But, I was in for a surprise, after arriving at one of the major international airports, when a makeshift immigration officer greeted me and started to ask me different kinds of questions in broken English. By the way, I didn't realize that the gentleman was a makeshift immigration officer until I found out that I was waiting unusually long at the immigration checkpoint to get all my paperwork done. Besides, he also told me that he was filling in for a certain gentleman.

So, anyway, after I found out that the makeshift immigration officer was struggling to communicate with me in his broken English, I thought that it was probably the right time to be a little bold and use the Spanish language for the first time in a formal setting which I learned at my high school. Seeing me speaking in his mother tongue, the immigration officer gentleman first looked a bit surprised and then excited with a very happy face, asking me how I learned his language and what possibly could have motivated me to learn a difficult language like Spanish. I tried to answer all of his questions in the Spanish language before leaving the airport happily.

Anyway, I chose to use a foreign language on this occasion, primarily because I wanted to see how good I was at communicating in the Spanish language. Besides, I also wanted to help the makeshift immigration officer to ease up a little and feel comfortable when trying to communicate with me in English.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe the first time you used foreign language to communicate*

Practice 8:

Describe some local news that people in your locality are interested in.

You should say:

- what the news is
- how you know about this news

- how the news involves your locality

and explain why people in your area are interested in the news.

Model Answer:

I live in a rather quiet and small town, and nothing much really happens in it except some occasional bird watching (yes, many foreign birds visit it) and spending some lazy times in some local café and restaurants. Luckily, however, there is a local newspaper in my town for us to read, which provides us with local news about what happens in and around our town. So, today, I would like to talk about one such news which the local people are really interested in.

The news is about establishing a new train station in our little town, which the local people in my town had been demanding for, since the days of my childhood. Anyway, I would have missed this exciting news had one of my cousins not informed me about it. So, I immediately got a newspaper and started to read each and every word of the news, lest I missed something.

The news said many things about the future train station in my town, including how long it would take to build the train station, and how many trains would stop in that station. The news also highlighted the facts about how the local residents of my town would benefit from this railway station. In fact, many of us in our town believe that because of this train station, communication between our town and other major cities of my country would be easier, which would, in turn, increase the economic activities of our town. And, the more economic activities it has, the better would be the future employment opportunities. Besides, because of this new train station, people in my town would gain more than just economic development from the contact with the rest of the country. Anyway, people in my area are interested in this news, mainly because they would not feel stuck in some isolated part of their country. Besides, they also feel that it would open up many doors of opportunities for them as far as their educational, cultural and economic developments are concerned. All in all, it is a piece of great news.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe some local news that people in your locality are interested in*

Practice 9:

Describe someone or something that makes a lot of noise.

You should say:

- who or what makes the noise
- what the noise is like
- why that thing or person makes the noise

and explain how you feel about it.

Model Answer:

I am not sure if living near the main road has its advantages, but it sure has a major disadvantage, and that disadvantage is to deal with noise – a lot of noise – on a regular basis. So, I guess that I will go ahead today and talk about the noise of the traffic on the road near the place where I live.

Anyway, I guess that in today's world, there aren't too many people who don't know about traffic noise, especially if they live in the cities. And, we all know how busy the city roads and streets can become, with hundreds of vehicles running on them every minute and making some unbearable noises. These noises are mainly created from the traction of the road surfaces by tires, loud sounds of engine/transmission, aerodynamic noises (noises that result from the flow of air and vibration), horns, and braking elements. However, of all the noises, noises of rolling tires from large vehicles, like buses and trucks, driving on the uneven pavement are found to be the biggest contributor of traffic noise which increases with higher vehicle speeds.

These traffic noises are bad and harmful enough to cause sleep problems, headaches, tiredness, high blood pressure, stress and increased risk of heart disease. Anyway, the traffic noise is usually unpleasant and inconvenient as they distract us and confuse us. But, no matter how unpleasant and inconvenient the traffic noises really are, we can't really get rid of them at will because it's the very sound of motion energy, created by the fuel and engine, without which, no vehicles would run on the road.

How do I feel about it? To be honest, I have a lot of negative feelings about this traffic noise, but the most frustrating thing about this traffic noise is that I feel very helpless against it, simply because I feel like this traffic noise is inevitable and a fact of life which we will have to live with as long as we are living in a city. Even more frustrating for me is the fact that we all more or less know what this traffic noise does to our health, but still, we are doing almost nothing about it.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe someone or something that makes a lot of noise*

Practice 10:

Describe a time when you had to change your plan.

You should say:

- when this happened
- what made you change the plan
- what the new plan was

and how you felt about the change.

Model Answer:

I am not exactly one of those people who like to plan things ahead of the schedule. But, when I plan, which seems to be harder for me than doing the actual work, I want to make sure that I am able to execute my plans properly in order to “reap” the benefits of my “hard work”.

But, unfortunately, it was not the case when I planned for a camping trip with my cousins last time about 2 years ago in order to spend a night at a lake site. We knew exactly what we were up to. So, we prepared for everything by packing all the necessary things from sleeping bags, tents and outdoor cooking supplies to maps, compass, flashlights, extra clothing, lighters, candles and first aid kits. In fact, we had a perfect plan with everything under control except, of course, the weather. Well, we found out just a day ahead of our scheduled trip that there

would be a hailstorm with some heavy rains in the forecast the following day.

So, the new plan (or its lack thereof) was that we would remain indoors the whole day while watching some footballs and movies over some freshly-baked popcorn and cans of cold Coca-Cola on the sides. And, if weather permitting, we could possibly enjoy some grilled barbeque as well.

Well, how did I feel about the change? Let's just say that the weather guy, who had forecasted about a bright and sunny day a week earlier on my TV, wouldn't exactly be very pleased to know what I "called" him in his absence, only to realize at the end, of course, that the weather guy wasn't exactly in control of the weather either. However, the worst part of changing the plan was that I was not allowed to enjoy our camping and the great outdoors near a beautiful lake while fishing in it with my cousins, courtesy to the "not-so" cooperative weather. Finally, unpacking my bags and luggage and putting the stuff back in the right places due to the change in the plan was also a bit irritating, to say the least.

But, other than that, I was pretty relaxed, consoling myself that there always was the next time. So, instead of remaining disappointed, I decided to enjoy my time inside my house with my cousins while planning for our next camping trip except, of course, this time around, we didn't want to rely on a weather guy for our weather information.

Source: <https://www.ielts-mentor.com>, *Describe a time when you had to change your plan*

Part 3

Two-Way Discussion

In this part, test takers are asked further questions connected to the topic in Part 2. These questions give the test taker an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas.

1. This part lasts about 4 – 5 minutes.
2. Test Takers will be asked 4 – 8 questions.
3. The examiner asks questions related to the topic in part 2, and you have to give detailed answers.

Strategy:

There are various types of questions in the IELTS Speaking Part 3. Yet, you can use an effective technique to answer any type of question from part 3. Keep in mind that receiving a good score requires you to address the question appropriately, state your opinion and justify your ideas.

1. Give a direct answer to the question.
2. In this part you are expected to state your opinion and reason your specific point of view.
3. Give an example to support your point. It's also okay to discuss your life experiences.
4. Conclude with a sentence by connecting your ideas and examples to the subject of the question.
5. Buy time to think: One of the biggest problems in this part of the test is that the questions can be quite challenging. You may struggle to think of what you want to say, let alone how you are going to say it. There are some strategies you can use to deal with this situation.
6. Although these phrases will not harm your score, you should try not to use them for every question as the examiners may think that you are simply just not understanding the questions they are asking you. Just use them when you need them!

Start with a memorized set phrase

1. Off the top of my head I would say...
2. Well, it's difficult to say, but ...
3. That's an interesting question and I think I would have to say that...

4. Mmm ... I'm not really sure, but...
5. Actually, that's not something I've really thought about, but...
6. I don't really know much about that, but...
7. "I'm so sorry but today I am a bag of nerves. To be honest, my mind just went completely blank" - Use this if you actually feel that way ONLY.
8. "Wow, what a fantastic question. I have genuinely never thought about that before. Let me just take a moment to consider your question".
9. "To be perfectly honest, this is not a topic I normally talk about. But, if you have to ask me I guess I would say that..".
10. Unfortunately, this subject is not really my cup of tea. I don't have strong feelings one way or the other. If I had to choose, I would have to say..".

Do's & Don'ts for Part 3

1. Speak and explain your ideas with confidence. Even if you are not sure whether your notions are good enough or not, you can still get a band 9. The examiner pays more attention to your fluency and pronunciation. Moreover, they focus on your usage of a wide range of appropriate vocabulary and your ability to produce error-free sentences.
2. If you do not understand the question, ask the examiner to repeat it. In this case, you might say: "Could you please repeat the question?" It is better to understand what exactly you are asked from the very beginning than shy away from it and end up giving an irrelevant answer. Do ask if something is unclear!
3. You may need some time to think before answering the question. You may use any of the memorized set phrases mentioned above to buy yourself a couple of seconds to collect your thoughts. This will aid in generating some good ideas for your answer. Try to figure out how to connect your ideas and get ready to give a confident speech.
4. Don't think of telling something which will match with the IELTS examiner's ideas. You can talk about your views, even if you feel like the IELTS examiner won't like them.
5. Giving memorised answers is not a good idea. You should not provide

answers that you have prepared beforehand. The examiner will figure it out from the speed at which you talk, your words and also your pronunciation. This way, you might even end up giving irrelevant answers which will result in a low score. That is why you should not prepare any answers at all! It is better to work on your speaking skills. So, talk and listen to native speakers and improve your vocabulary.

6. Don't give short answers like in part 1. You should provide long and explained answers with 3 or 4 sentences. Try to give some reasons that will define your specific point of view. You can also conclude your speech with your last sentence.

7. Don't try to overdo it! If you want to use a fancy word, make sure that you know the exact meaning of it; otherwise, that might reduce your score. If you use a word you are not very familiar with; you will more likely use it in the wrong context. It will be out of place, and the examiner will reduce your score. Thus, it is better to talk in the words you are comfortable with and use in your everyday life.

Example:

What abilities do people most want to have today?

Model Answer:

I guess nowadays people want to have skills in technology because it helps them have an exciting job and get a competitive salary. For example, a friend of mine wants to study different programming languages. He believes that he could have a decent job with a high wage.

In this example, we use the first sentence to answer the question and clarify our opinion. The second sentence is used to give an example. And the last sentence concludes the example with the given view.

Source: IELTS Cambridge Book 10, *Test 1*

Practice Exercises

Practice 1

Choosing work & Work-Life balance.

Q.1. What kinds of jobs do young people not want to do in your country?

Model Answer: Well, in my country, we have almost always had a big problem of unemployment among young people, and therefore, there aren't exactly too many jobs that they don't want to do. However, as far as I have found out, jobs like "outside sales", "medical representatives" and other "service-oriented" jobs, that require longer hours of work, are not looked upon very favourably by the young adults in my country. They don't also like "elementary teaching" jobs because they require a lot of patience (after all, teaching little kids can be really challenging).

Q.2. Who is best at advising young people about choosing a job: teachers or parents?

Model Answer: In my humble opinion, teachers are best at advising young people about choosing a job primarily because they are usually the ones who work tirelessly at schools and colleges to unlock the potential of young adults. Besides, through the continuous interaction with their students in classes, it is the teachers who are better positioned to identify the skills and expertise of the young people and thus being able to guide them to choose careers that are suitable for them.

Q.3. Is money always the most important thing when choosing a job?

Model Answer: No, I don't really think that money is "always" ("always" is the keyword here) the most important thing, when choosing a job, primarily because money doesn't always buy "happiness" or the "job satisfaction" no matter how much of it we really have. Besides, if I am being paid a lot of "money", but what I do as a "job" is not considered to be "important", then the chances are that I won't be able to perform to my full potential despite my best intention. Money is an important thing for us to do a job but I do not believe that it is the most important aspect of a job.

Source: <https://ieltspracticeonline.com>, *Choosing work & Work-Life balance*

Practice 2

Sports and competition.

Q. 1. Why are some sports fans so passionate?

Model Answer: I believe some people love sports than other forms of entertainment and competition and they always follow their favourite sports on TV. 'Watching and playing sports' is their favourite leisure activity while many of those passionate fans once were players themselves and played the game in their youth. Growing up, they see their family, friends, and city go wild when a goal is scored or a game is won. So, it's natural to follow other's enthusiasm and cheer for their local teams. Such attachment often increases their love for sports. In my country, many youths are ardent fans of football and they have their favourite teams. When their favourite team plays, they take every opportunity to support them and sometimes go to the stadium to show their support. Sportsmen are often idolized by youths and they love to follow their favourite sportsmen as enthusiastic followers.

Q.2. Is there any violence at sporting events in your country?

Model Answer: Generally speaking, such violence is very rare in my country. However, disputes among fans are quite common and most of the time they are verbal rather than physical. They often take social networking platforms and blogs to criticise their rivals. I can, however, recall a very unfortunate event that took place probably three or four years ago when the fans of two competing teams got agitated and three people died due to this incident while several others were critically injured. The security of the stadium has been revamped to address such unexpected events and hopefully, it wouldn't happen again.

Q.3. Should athletes be better role models?

Model Answer: I believe most fans start adoring an athlete or a sportsman due to the spectacular performance he or she shows. Thus football magicians like Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi have several million fans and many of them started idolising them without knowing them personally. However, when these

youths start following their favourite sportsmen or athletes, they sometimes follow them blindly. Thus considering the impact, famous sports personalities should always try to lead exemplary lives as thousands of others mimic them. They are also famous and the media is always watching them. Any bad conduct can bring controversy to their fame and they should try to become better role models for youths as it is a social and moral responsibility for any celebrity.

Source: <https://ieltspracticeonline.com>, *sports and competition*

Practice 3

Historic Place

Q. 1. How do people in your country feel about protecting historic buildings?

Model Answer: I believe people from my country would want to protect and preserve important historic buildings except maybe a few who put business ahead of their morality and rational thinking. We had our moments when people spontaneously protested the plan to demolish such sites in the past. Due to a huge public backlash and outcry, the authority had been forced to abandon their plan to build multi-storied commercial buildings by smashing the old buildings that have historical significance. Thus citizens in my country are sensitive about protecting anything that has historical importance.

Q.2. Do you think an area can benefit from having an interesting historic place locally? In what way?

Model Answer: Definitely an area with an interesting historic place can reap the benefits from different perspectives. First, such a place would attract a huge number of tourists and help grow different local businesses. Besides, such areas are strategically important for the local government and it can bring more development projects to the area. The government takes extra measures to protect such areas from natural disasters and thus get more attention. On top of that, the flourishing tourism of the area spreads the local custom and tradition to other parts of the country. Thus the development of such a region occurs faster than other areas.

Q. 3. What do you think will happen to historic places or buildings in the future? Why?

Model Answer: That is hard to tell and all would depend on the future generation. If they feel that such locations and buildings are worth preserving, the authority would take steps to protect them. Otherwise, many of them, which are less internationally known, would disappear and would be converted to ultramodern commercial buildings. Prominent sites, on the other hand, would be preserved as they will attract many international tourists. Some of them will be debilitated due to the lack of maintenance and a few new ones will emerge as historic places and buildings in the distant future. The main reason some of the historic places and buildings will disappear is that they are less popular and can't sell tickets to tourists. So the authority or the owner would like to convert them for business purposes. The urbanisation, pollution and the need for more buildings for the increasing population are threats to such historic sites.

Source: <https://ieltspracticeonline.com>, *historic place*

Practice 4

Films / Cinema.

Q. 1. Do you think the cinema has increased or decreased in popularity in recent years?

Model Answer: That's a bit of a complex issue as the answer might seem paradoxical. Well, I heartily believe that more people enjoy movies today than ever before but most of them do not go to a movie theatre to enjoy a movie. Thus the cinema halls have lost their glory days, especially in my country, but an increasing number of people make time to watch movies either on TVs or on their computers. Gone are the days when my parents used to take me to a movie theatre and that was once in a while. These days we enjoy more than 3-4 movies a week but do not go to a cinema hall at all. I believe the popularity of international movies, low-quality local movies and amenities to get a great movie-viewing experience at home are the reasons for this shifting trend.

Q. 2. In your opinion, will this trend continue in the future?

Model Answer: Unless radical changes are brought to the cinema halls and restrictions are imposed on the way we stream and watch the latest movies at home, the trend will continue in the future. Movie theatres would lose their attractions further and technology would assist us to watch movies on demand at home. However, some people will still go to the cinema with friends and family to enjoy a movie on a day out.

Q. 3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of making films of real-life events?

Model Answer: Among the advantages, I assume, those movies have a ready-made plot, the storylines are already popular and the producer can think of characters easily. Such movies often win awards considering their historical values and are positively taken by the audience and critics.

However, there are some drawbacks in making such movies based on real-life events. First and foremost, people and critics scrutinise such movies more thoroughly and they are often subject to controversy. Secondly, the story is already known to people and the movie has to promise something more than its storyline. Furthermore, making such movies require a huge sum of money and they often end up poorly in the box office.

Source: <https://ieltspracticeonline.com>, *Films and cinema*

Practice 5

Media & News.**Q. 1. How do most people get their news in your country?**

Model Answer: Thank you very much for this question. Most adults in my country rely on newspapers and television channels for news. However, a good number of office-goers also visit online news portals to find out the news updates and recent events. Young people heavily rely on online newspapers and their preferred social networking platform to get such news.

Q. 2. How do you think people will get their news in the future?

Model Answer: I think technology will change the way we will get and share news in the future. Most people will rely on their handheld devices, that are connected to the Internet, as the primary source of news and information. Traditional newspapers and news channels, on the other hand, will become less popular in the future because of the time lag between when something happens and when readers get the chance to read or view them. Since mobile devices can offer instant updates, they will be a powerful way of getting news updates. Listening to the preferred type of news by using small devices attached to our ears would become more popular and the type of news we would like to listen to shall be determined by our activities and interests.

Q. 3. Do you believe everything you read in the newspapers?

Model Answer: No, I do not believe everything newspapers publish for the public. That's why I read newspapers that are mainstream and have strong authority and authenticity. Thus I avoid reading most of the fabricated and fake news which are usually published in less authoritative and unreliable newspapers. I am also wary of politically biased and sourceless news articles that my friends or their friends share on Facebook and Twitter.

Sometimes the process of gathering news is done hastily and irresponsibly, which results in unreliable information even in the mainstream newspapers. In such cases, I try to verify the news from other reliable sources. In fact, the forged and made-up news is all around us and without being watchful and experienced, we can't recognise lies hidden in plain sight.

Source: <https://ieltspracticeonline.com>, *Media and news*

Speaking Summary

Approach	Reason
Make sure you know what you have to do in the Speaking test and what you are being assessed on.	Even good candidates can lose marks because they are not prepared for the requirements of the different parts of the test.

PART 1	Use this part to develop your confidence and fluency.	The questions are about you and should be straightforward to answer.
	Give full answers but do not talk for too long.	Fuller answers are expected in Part 3.
	Do not memorize answers.	Your examiner will recognize prepared answers and you will not get credit for them.
PART 2	Use the preparation time wisely.	Useful notes will help you speak for longer.
	Refer to the task card as you talk.	The points on the task card are designed to help you structure your talk.
	Be aware of how long 2 minutes is.	You need to produce a rounded talk that is long enough, but not too long.
PART 3	Make sure you know what the discussion topic is.	Your answers need to be relevant to the topic.
	Rephrase the questions in your mind, so that you know what the examiner expects.	The questions aim to get you to talk about things using a range of language functions.
	Support and extend your answers.	You must show that you can discuss the Part 3 topics fully.
All Parts	Listen carefully to each question the examiner asks and think about the tenses and vocabulary you should use in your answer	You will get better marks if your answer is grammatically correct and shows a range of vocabulary
	Have some views on typical Part 1 and 3 topics	You cannot discuss topics if you do not have any views. This is especially important for Part 3.

	Ask the examiner to repeat a question if you do not understand it.	This is much better than talking about something irrelevant to the topic.
	Try to develop your answers using linkers and structural markers.	You will get better marks for fluency if you can sequence ideas, rather than repeating them or hesitating over them.
	Speak clearly and use stress and intonation to help you get your points across.	This will help improve your marks for pronunciation. Even good speakers can lose marks if they speak much too quickly.

Source: New Insight into IELTS - Cambridge